

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the enclosed 2 sheets of drawings, depicting FIGS. 2, 3, and 5-7, for the FIGS. 2, 3, and 5-7 currently on file. A red-marked copy is also enclosed.

Attachment: Two replacement sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-6, 8, 10-12 are in the application. Claims 7 and 9 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 8 and 10 have been amended. The drawings have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to the drawings. Applicant has amended the drawings accordingly.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 7, 8, 9 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicant has amended these claims accordingly.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 8, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over *Sutton* in view of *Bienen* and rejected claims 5 and 6 over these references and further in view of *Meadow*. The Examiner stated that claims 9-11 would be patentable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the elements of claims 7 and 9, now canceled. Claim 10 has been amended to include the elements of claims 1 and 7. Applicant submits that

none of the cited references, taken either singly or in combination, teach or suggest a bag having the features of amended claims 1 and 10, i.e., buckles connecting the straps to the handles, or loops on the front and rear sides for retaining the handles.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-6, 8, and 10-12 are in condition for allowance. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
ELIZABETH ANGEVINE - 1



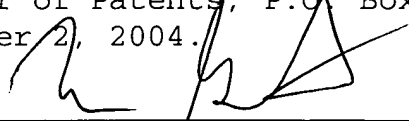
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Enclosure: Two Replacement Sheets and marked up copies.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 2, 2004.



Maria Guastella

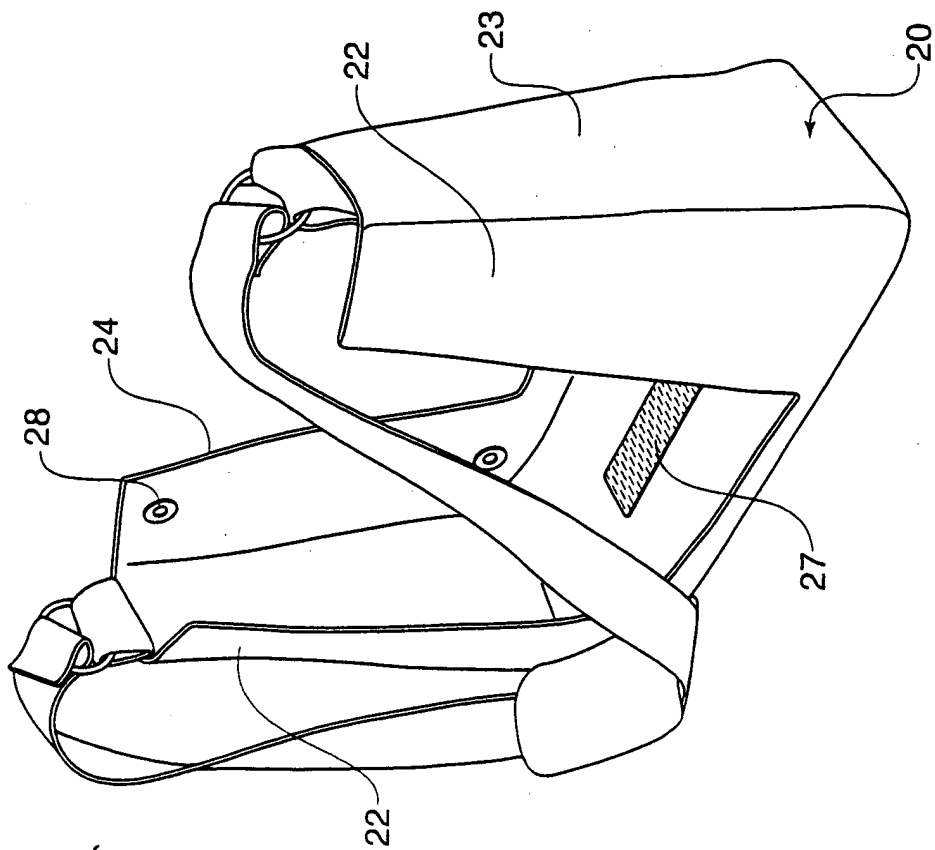


FIG. 2

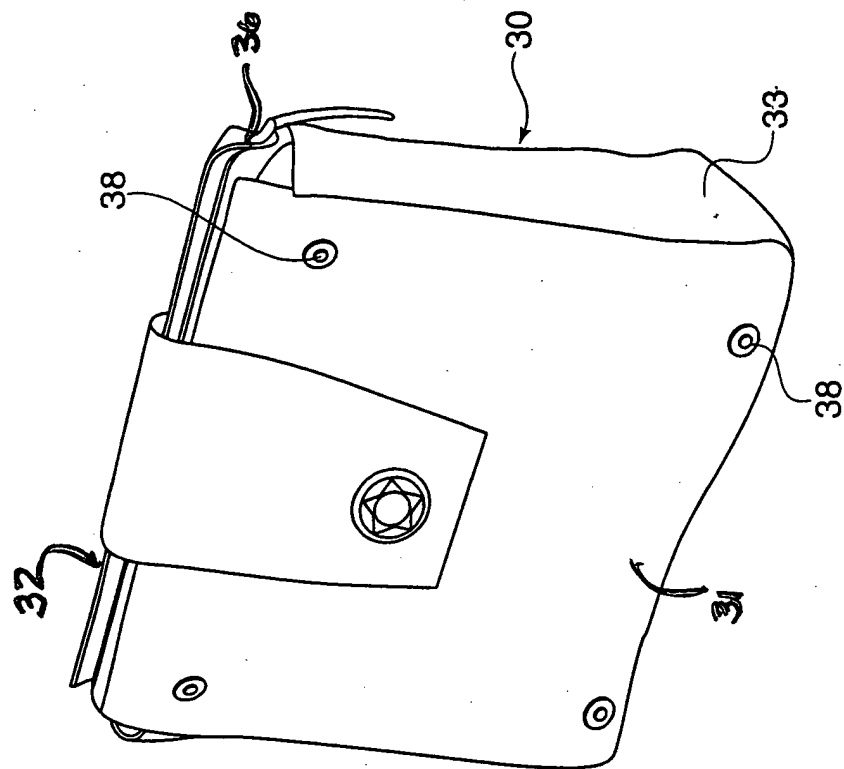


FIG. 3

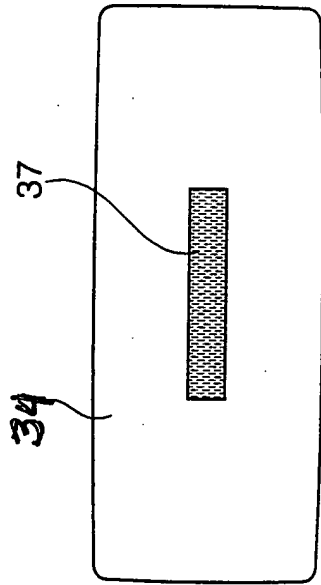


FIG. 5

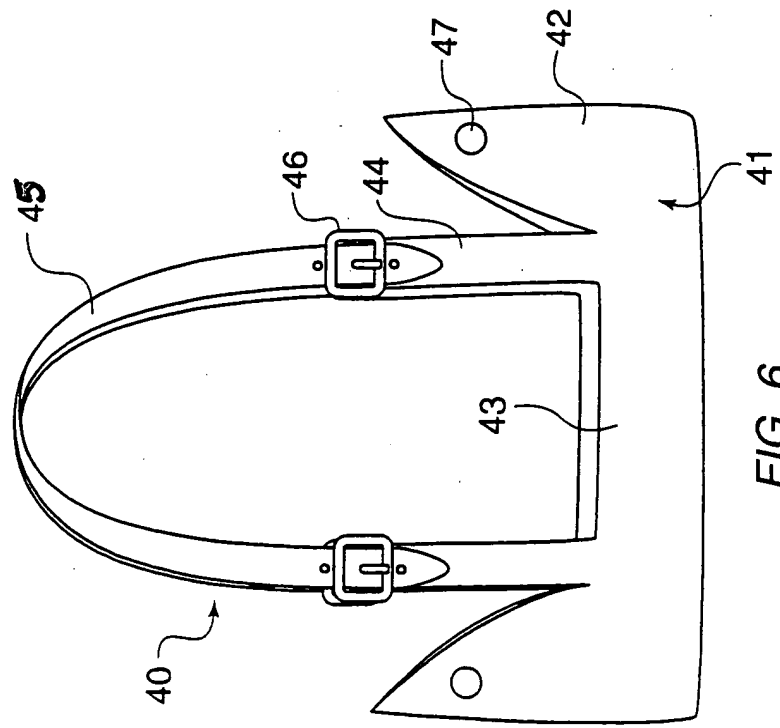


FIG. 6

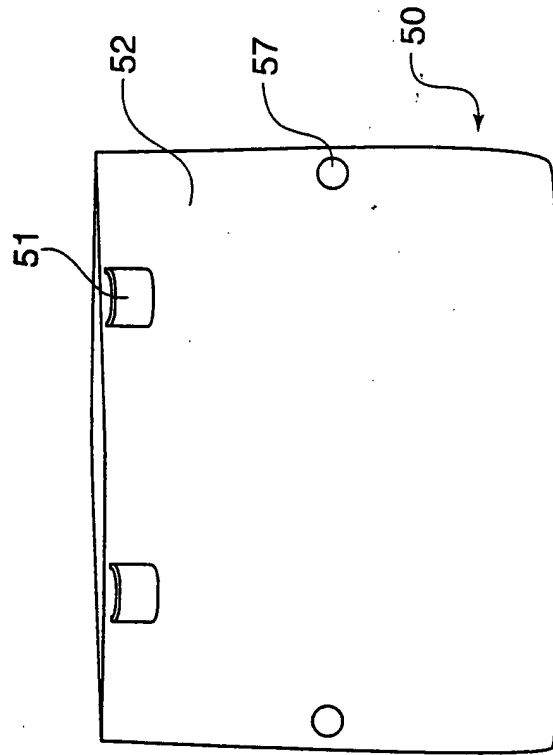


FIG. 7